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COBRA COMMANDER

image

#01

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COBRA COMMANDER

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NO MAN'S LAND
REST STOP AND PUB

CREEEKK

UH, WHAT'LL BE, STRANGER?

I HAVE NEED OF A VEHICLE.

SSSPEAK NOW IF YOU CAN BE OF ASSSISTANCE.

HA!

HOW THE HELL YOU GET ALL THE WAY OUT HERE WITHOUT A TRUCK, BUDDY?!

AND WHAT'S WITH THE *LISP?*

SMACK

DANG *CIRCUS* IS IN TOWN, AND NO ONE TOLD US, BOYS.

GOOD LUCK! IT'S COLD OUT THERE!

YOUR VEHICLE WILL DO NICELY.

NOW WHAT THE HECK IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

WHAT YA GOT THERE, WEIRDO?

THAT SOME KIND OF *TOY?*

NO MAN'S LAND

REST STOP AND PUB

DRUNK?

ZZZRTTRUKTKTK

AHHHHHHHH

HEY, JIMMY, YOU FORGOT TO PAY, DAMMIT.

NO MAN'S LAND
REST STOP AND PUB

DRUNK?

CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D JUST TAKE OFF LIKE THAT.

THAT SONOFA... HIS TRUCK IS GONE...

OH, JESUS...

WHAT...?

FFFF

BEFORE.

BOOM!

COBRA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA!

WORD OF THE MONSTROSITY WE BROUGHT INTO OUR CITY LEAKED...

...AND OUR PEOPLE DEMAND ANSWERS!

GUARDS! PROTECT US!

DON'T LET THEM INSIDE! WE ARE ONLY SCIENTISTS!

THE MOB HAS GROWN TOO LARGE!

"THEY WILL BREACH ANY MOMENT..."

THE MOB WILL KILL US ALL WHEN THEY SEE THAT WE HAVE DONE.

THAT WE HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES AGAINST OUR WAYS!

WE MUST RETREAT!

RETREAT!

BANG!

NO ONE RETREATS.

BANG!

THESE INTRUDERS MAY NOT SEE US AS THREATS BECAUSE WE ARE SCIENTISTS, BUT MANY THINGS CAN BE USED AS A WEAPON.
AND SCIENCE IS ONE OF THEM.
OUR MAIN GOAL NOW...

...IS TO PROTECT OUR *RESEARCH.*

OPEN THE DOORS. LET THE FOOLS COME.

HERE. THIS SPORE WILL DEAL WITH THEM. I CREATED IT IN THESE VERY LABS.

AAHHHH!!!

KILL THE FIRST WHO TRY TO SURRENDER AS A ***WARNING*** TO THOSE WHO FOLLOW!

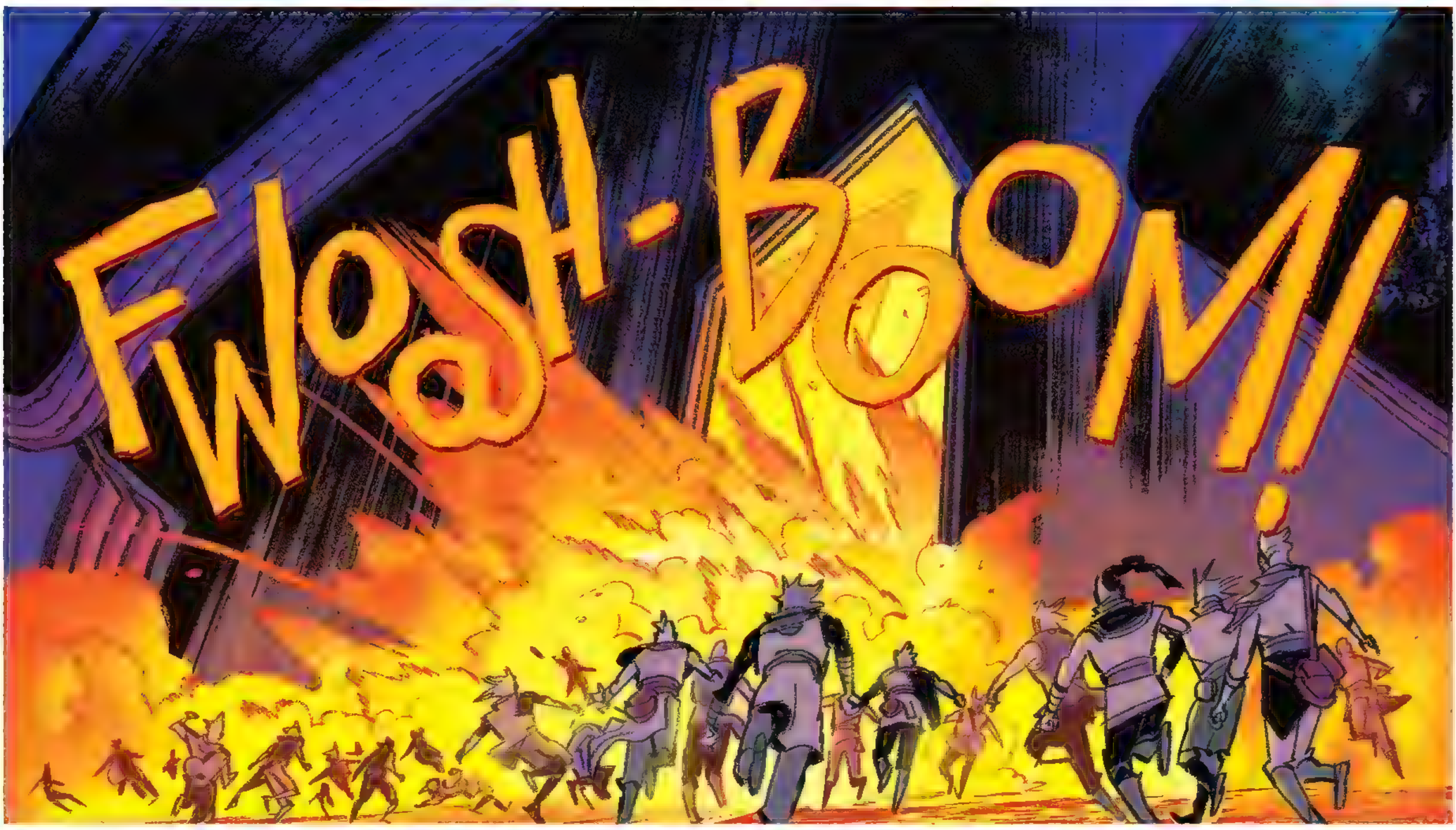
BANG BANG BANG

AAHHH!! IT BURNS!

SHOULD I THROW THIS AS WELL?

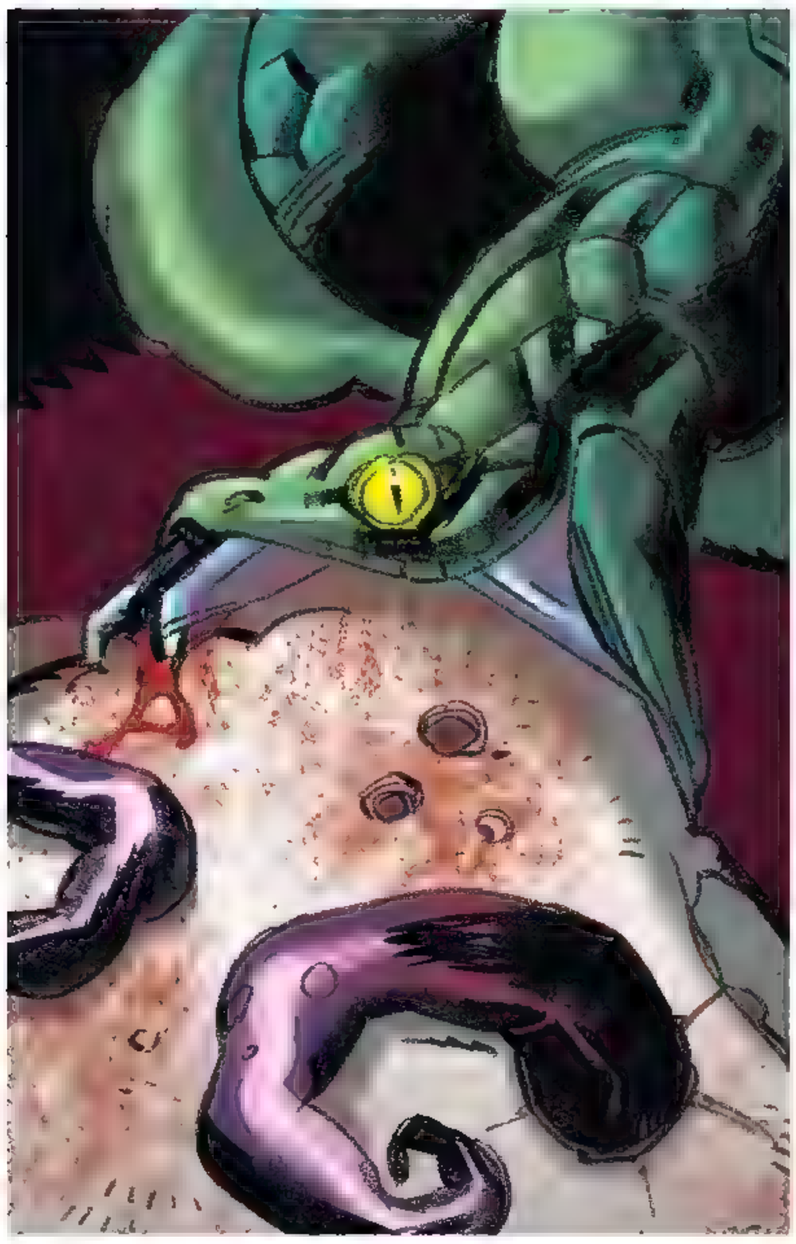
YOU FOOL...

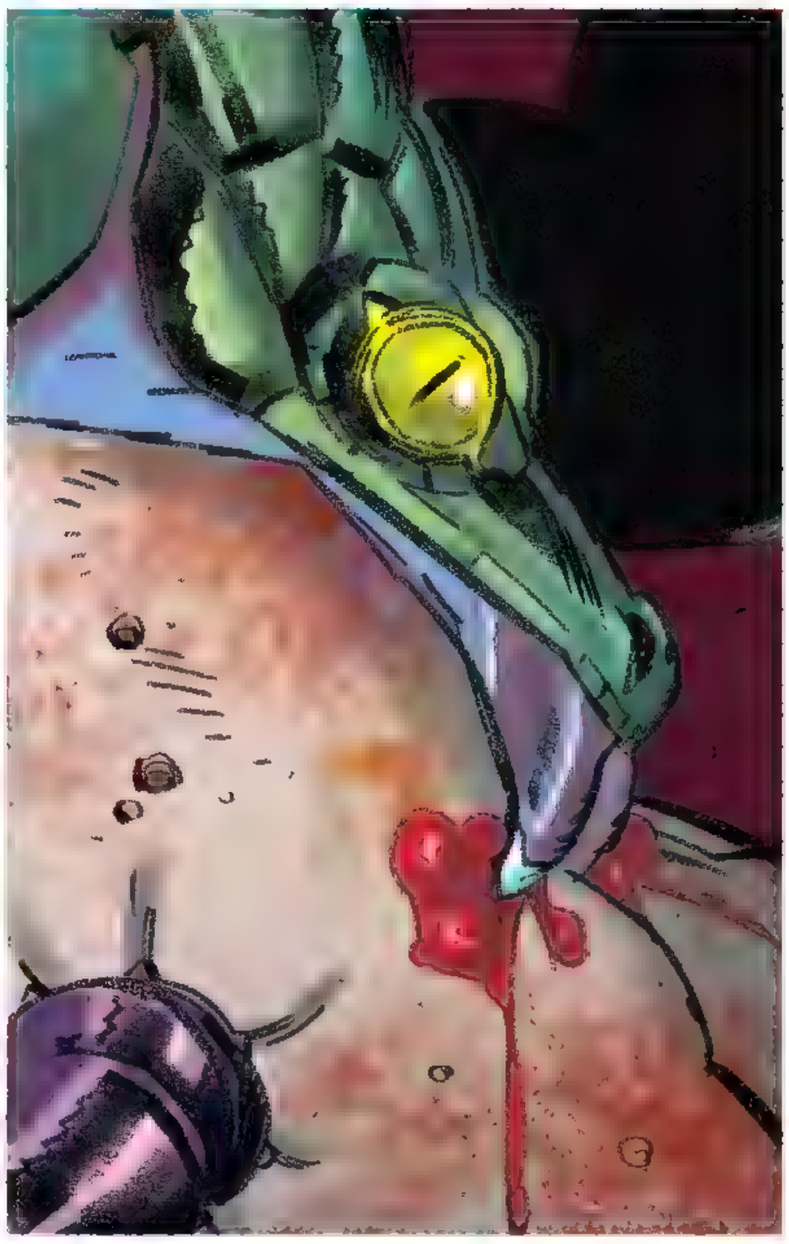
BOOM!

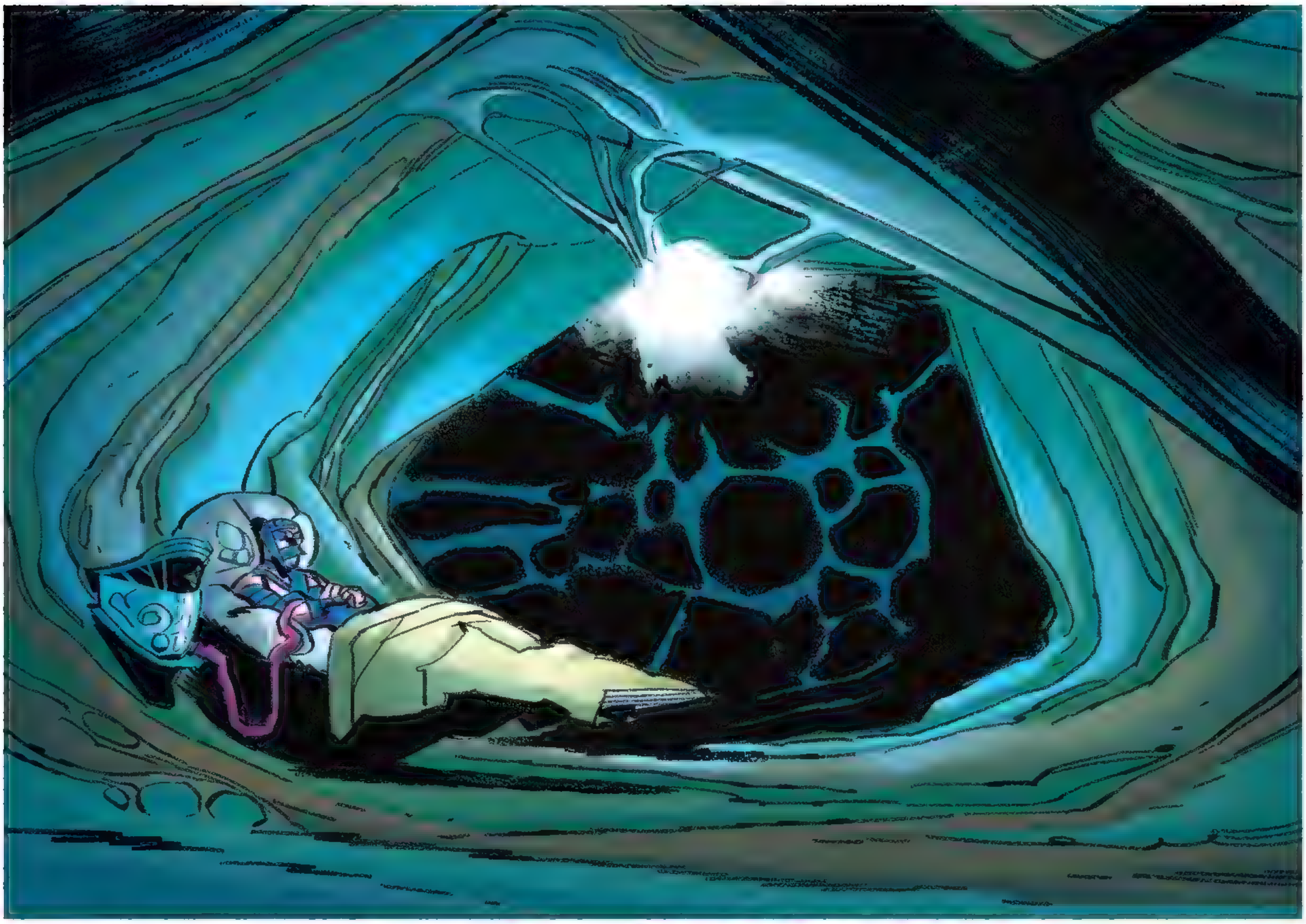

Fwosh-Boom!

AHHHH!!!

HSSS



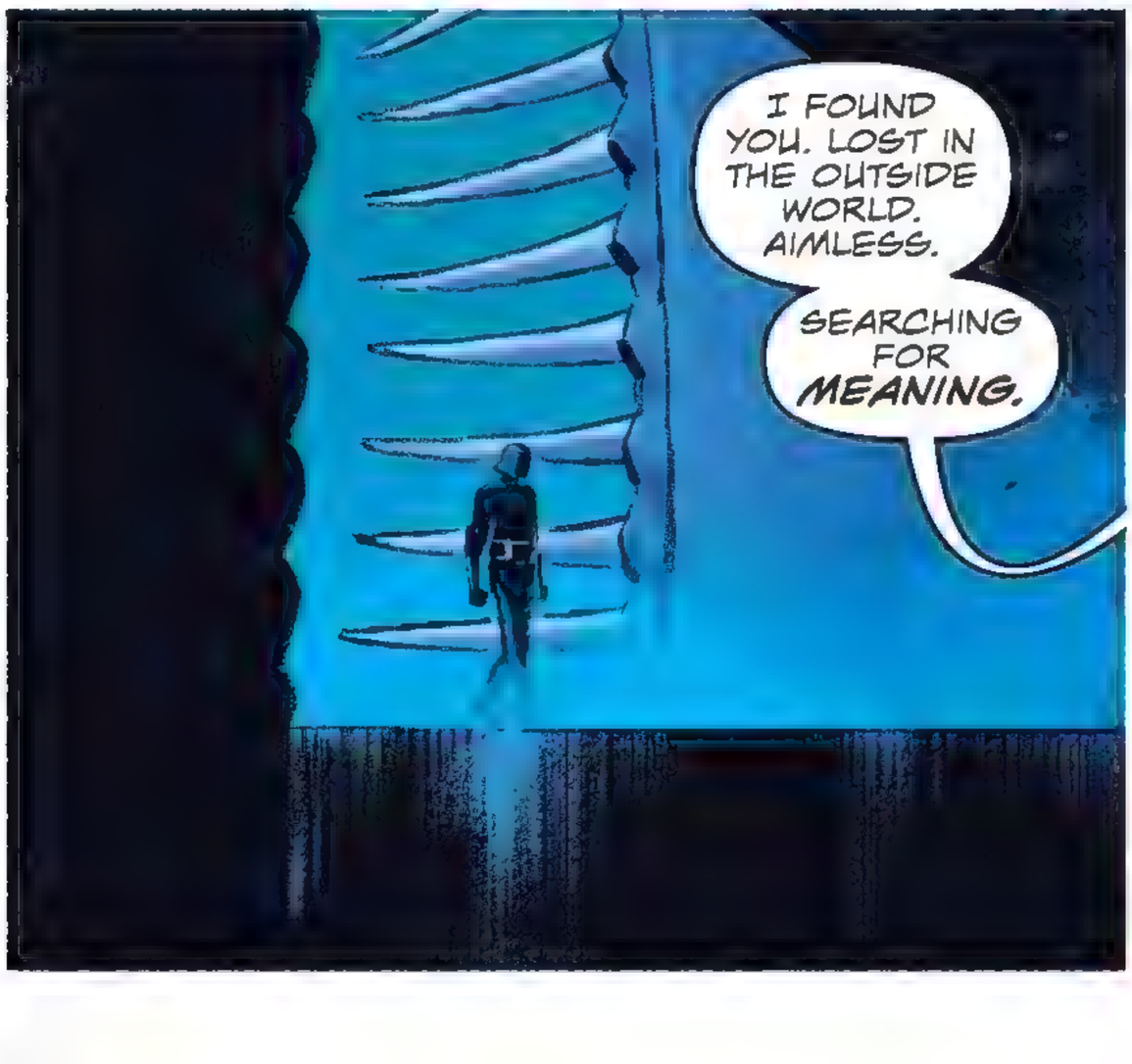




PUT IT ON. HIDE YOUR *SHAME.*

YOU HAVE BEEN SUMMONED.

OF COURSE, PYTHONA.


I FOUND YOU. LOST IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD. AIMLESS.
SEARCHING FOR MEANING.

AND BROUGHT YOU TO COBRA-LA.
GAVE YOU A PURPOSE.

AND THIS IS HOW YOU **REPAY ME?**

OUR PEOPLE WORSHIP ONLY THE ORGANIC. THE GIFTS OF THE FLESH AND THE NATURAL ORDER OF **LIFE.**

NUMEROUS SCIENCE OFFICERS DIED WHILE TRYING TO HARVEST FROM THE SPECIMEN.

AND YET **YOU** LIVED. YOU MANAGED TO NOT ONLY INTERROGATE IT, BUT ALSO FIND USES FOR ITS BLASPHEMOUS TECHNOLOGY.

AND I SHOULD BE RESPECTED FOR THAT, LORD GOLOBULUS!

PROMOTED IN THE RANKS **BEYOND** JUST THE BIOSCIENCE LABS INTO A POSITION OF **LEADERSHIP!**

AND YET YOU HAVE KEPT ME UNDER YOUR HEEL THERE. **WHY?**

THERE HAVE BEEN TOO MANY LEAKS ABOUT THE ATROCITIES HAPPENING WITHIN THE SCIENCE COMPOUND. THE CITIZENS ARE UPSET THAT SOMEONE WOULD DARE BLEMISH OUR WAYS WITH ANYTHING FROM THE **OUTSIDE.**

AND **YOU** ARE TO BLAME.

NO. I AM A **LOYAL** FOLLOWER TO YOU AND COBRA-LA. I WOULD NEV--

LIES.

I KNOW **YOU** INSTIGATED THE RIOTS.

I WILL NOT TOLERATE YOUR BETRAYAL.

I HEALED YOU...

...BECAUSE I WANTED TO WATCH YOU DIE WITH MY OWN **EYES.**

WHOOSH

REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SCIENCE COMPOUND, I AM NOT MUCH OF A FIGHTER, MY LORD.

I PREFER TO LET ***OTHERS*** DO THE FIGHTING FOR ME...

ZZAK

TRUK-TK TK

FEAR AND **HATE** ARE USEFUL IN KEEPING THE CITIZENS IN **LINE.**

YOU HAVE PROVEN THAT COUNTLESS TIMES.

BUT COBRA-LA IS A **POWDER KEG.** WE'VE BEEN CUT OFF FROM THE WORLD FOR SO LONG THAT OUR RESOURCES ARE DWINDLING.

AHHH!!

AND AS MUCH AS IT PAINS ME TO SAY, CIVIL WAR IS IMMINENT.

SOMETHING MUST BE DONE.

BUT AS YOU CAN **SEE...**

...I'VE FOUND A WAY TO **STRENGTHEN** COBRA-LA.

MY WAYS MAY BE UNDERHANDED, BUT EVERYTHING WAS DONE IN YOUR NAME.

WHAT YOU SEE HERE IS JUST A **TASTE** OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE.

TO FURTHER YOUR CONTROL OF THE WORLD, AND GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT, YOU MUST **TRUST ME.**

I WILL **PROVE** MY UNDYING LOYALTY TO YOU AND COBRA-LA.

BUT TO DO ALL THESE THINGS, YOU MUST GIVE ME A NEW TITLE, AND I MUST LEAVE MY HOME HERE FOR A **SPECIAL MISSION** IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

MY FATE AND THE FATE OF **COBRA-LA** IS IN **YOUR** HANDS NOW, MY LORD.

KLANK

YOU PROBABLY HOPED I WAS DEAD.

TOO BAD.

YOU HAVE SERVED ME WELL, MACHINE.

I WAS HONEST WITH GOLOBULUS.

MY LOYALTY TO HIM AND COBRA-LA IS STEADFAST.

AFTER EACH OF OUR SESSIONS, I DID MY DUTY AND REPORTED MY FINDINGS.

EXCEPT...

...THE DATA WITHIN YOU PAINTS A FRACTURED STORY OF THE GALAXIES BEYOND OURS.

COBRA-LA IS ADVANCED FOR A CIVILIZATION ON EARTH, BUT IT ***PALES*** IN COMPARISON TO WHAT WAITS IN SPACE.

THE OTHER SCIENTISTS THOUGHT THEY COULD GET YOU TO ***TALK.***

THEY TRIED TO GET TO KNOW YOU. HOPED YOU WOULD COME FORWARD WITH YOUR SECRETS WILLINGLY.

BUT I...

I FIGURED OUT A WAY TO RIP IT FROM YOUR VERY ***SOUL.***

TK!

ARRGHHHHHH

KZZTFFT

HEH.

YOUR SACRIFICE HAS SHOWN ME THAT THERE ARE ***OTHER*** ENERGY SIGNATURES SIMILAR TO YOURS IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

I WILL TRACK THEM DOWN AND LEARN ABOUT THIS ENERGY THAT FUELS YOU.

IT DOES NOT MERELY POWER...IT IS ***TRANSFORMATIVE.***

ONCE I UNLOCK ITS SECRETS...

...GOLOBULUS WILL HAVE HIS ARMY.

THAT ***I*** WILL LEAD.

AND NO FORCE IN COBRA-LA, OR IN ANY WORLD, WILL BE ABLE TO STOP US.

KRTSH-KLK

KRSHTT

NOW.

FIRST YOU WANDER OFF ON YOUR OWN AND KILL A HUMAN...AND NOW YOU **STOP** HERE FOR NO REASON?

MY ORDERS ARE TO KEEP YOU SAFE WHILE YOU FINISH YOUR MISSION.

WE SHOULD BE ON THE MOVE, COMMANDER. NOW THAT WE HAVE TRANSPORTATION, EVERY STOP IS A WASTE OF TIME.

THAT MEANS YOU ***MUST*** STAY IN MY SIGHT.

MY REASONS ARE TOO GREAT FOR YOUR SMALL MIND TO UNDERSTAND.

GOLOBULUS INSISTED YOU JOIN ME ON MY MISSION, BUT I WILL NOT ENTERTAIN YOUR FOOLISH QUESTIONSSS, GRUNT.

NOW DRIVE.

YOU SHOULD TAKE ON A DISGUISE AS WELL. IT WILL DRAW LESS ATTENTION.

I ***WANT*** THE ATTENTION. I WANT THE IMBECILES TO REVEAL THEMSELVES TO ME AS WE MAKE OUR WAY THROUGH THEIR WORLD.

WE HAVE A LONG JOURNEY AHEAD OF US, AND BY THE TIME WE ARE DONE...

...THIS WORLD WILL ***FEAR*** THE NAME OF...

"COBRA COMMANDER"

DREADNOKS

TO BE CONTINUED...

DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO
[redacted]
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"COBRA-LA?!"

When the Energon Universe started, we told you to expect the unexpected. That we would take the books into some unpredictable places to show you how this was not going to be the same story you've seen before. I've warned people that this series would be a horror series, but also that it was a weird series. Maybe a bit controversial and one that would get people talking. And that meant starting with Cobra-La. Personally, I love G.I. JOE: THE MOVIE. It totally captures so much of what I loved about the cartoon and the toys. And it had one of the greatest openings to a movie EVER. As we worked on our new take on this world and its mythology, why not start with something that is super weird? That people don't totally expect? We somehow managed to keep it a secret that Cobra-La played a major role in our plans this whole time, and I hope you were surprised. Secrets are fun!

This title came organically from the conversations we were having about the future of the Energon Universe. That if we were showing the origins of G.I. JOE, we also needed to show the deadly opposite. Show the parallel story that was brewing. That the arrival of the TRANSFORMERS didn't just change the world of someone like Duke, but how it impacted other parts of the mythology. And that meant showing how it changed Cobra.

One day on a group Zoom call with Sean, Robert, and Daniel, it came up that we knew Cobra Commander had Megatron and that we needed the room to show that. We needed this miniseries to introduce Cobra Commander in a way that let him be the star while also really expanding on Cobra-La... and the mystery of Energon.

This version of Cobra Commander is as manipulative as we all love him to be, but to take that idea and twist it even more. Early on we had a rule for this version of Cobra Commander. This Cobra Commander would not retreat. He would fire back and take charge. He would create Cobra in a way that was terrifying. It's always bugged me how this guy that all of Cobra seems to hate was able to pull together so many dangerous forces, so I wanted to show how he did that but also show him as a power-hungry man who wants to hold the world in his clutches. It's just like the song says… "determined to rule the world."

I've always loved villains. I've always gravitated toward them and they always seemed to have the most fun. And Cobra Commander was no different. Cobra Commander was one of my favorite characters growing up, and it's an honor to write him. I wanted to be respectful of what has come before, but I know that I need to take my own twist on the character. Give him a different angle as we show how it creates Cobra. That he is not a joke. I wanted to take the iconic voice and tweak it to be more confident and scarier. Less of the cowardly heel and more of the deadly despot who will kill anyone who gets in his way.

Oh, and as for Megatron… don't worry. It will take some time, but the leader of the Decepticons will play a big role in the Energon Universe very soon.

Joshua Williamson
November 2023
Portland, OR

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